

What is claimed is:

1. A printing control method for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the printing control method comprising the steps of:

receiving the order information;

judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing or manual printing based on the order information;

issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

2. A printing control method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the order information is transferred via a network.

3. A printing control method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of judging is carried out by referring to a table indicating criteria of judgment as to whether automatic printing or manual printing is suitable based on the content of the order information.

4. A printing control method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the order information includes information

indicating whether the print is the target of automatic printing or manual printing.

5     5. A printing control apparatus for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the printing control apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving the order information;

judgment means for judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing or manual printing based on the order information;

instruction means for issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

confirmation means for suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

20     6. A printing control apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the order information is transferred via a network.

25     7. A printing control apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the judgment means judges by referring to a table indicating criteria of judgment as to whether automatic printing or manual printing is suitable based on the content of the order information.

8. A printing control apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the order information includes information indicating whether the print is the target of automatic printing or manual printing.

5 9. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a printing control method for controlling print output of an image from printing means based on order information regarding the print output, the program comprising the procedures of:

receiving the order information;

judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing or manual printing based on the order information;

issuing a printing instruction to the printing means to carry out printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing based on the order information; and

suspending the printing instruction to the printing means until a predetermined printing instruction is issued, in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.

10. A computer-readable recording medium as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the order information is transferred via a network.

11. A computer-readable recording medium as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the procedure of judging is a procedure of

judging by referring to a table indicating criteria of judgment as to whether automatic printing or manual printing is suitable based on the content of the order information.

12. A computer-readable recording medium as claimed in  
5 Claim 9, wherein the order information includes information regarding whether the print is the target of automatic printing or manual printing.

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